Used for nearly 80 years, cells are examined under a microscope, looking for abnormal cells. The PAP test does not detect the presence of HPV and is subject to human error.

Cervical cancer prevention: What every woman needs to know

- Women should not have to die from cervical cancer.

What does a negative test result mean?

- Abnormal cells were not seen under a microscope.
- You are at low risk of having pre-cancer or cancer now.

What does a positive test result mean?

- A high-risk HPV infection that could lead to cancer was not detected.
- You are at very low risk of having pre-cancer or cancer now, or developing it in the next 5–10 years.

Today, there are two main screening tests for cervical cancer.

- HPV test
- PAP test

HPV screening is an important part of prevention.

HPV screening can determine your risk of cervical cancer.

Your doctor collects cells from your cervix for either test.

Modern technology, cells are examined on a highly accurate laboratory instrument to detect DNA of high-risk HPV.

Depending on your test results, your doctor may suggest to repeat the test at a later time or may want to take a closer look at your cervix using colposcopy.

Cervical cancer is preventable and HPV DNA screening can tell you if you are at risk.

References:
1. Globacan 2012 (IARC)

Up to 1/3 of invasive cervical cancer occurred in women with normal PAP results.